

## • Abroad •

**Tirana, Albania.** Enver Hoxha, boss of Albania, is not only totally ruthless in the Bolshevik style but intelligent and well read. He was educated in France, and in making strategic estimates adds a touch of French sophistication to his Communist fundamentals. He despises the boorish Khrushchev, whose crude speeches he enjoys tearing to logical shreds. Hoxha is convinced that Khrushchev's current anti-Albania campaign is the obverse of a Khrushchev-Tito rapprochement that is nearing the point of Yugoslavia's full reintegration within the Soviet bloc. Tito's endorsement of the resumption of Soviet nuclear tests was only the most spectacular item in the year's unbroken record of Belgrade-Moscow solidarity on all international issues. Tito has always opposed Hoxha, and—like other Serb, Croat, Macedonian and Turkish warriors for thousands of years—coveted the Dalmatian coastal and mountain region now called "Albania." Hoxha does not exclude the possibility that Moscow has endorsed Albania's "liberation" by Yugoslavia as clincher for the New Deal of the "anti-Stalins," Tito and Khrushchev.

**London.** Although the announcement on the subject—made to Parliament by Selwyn Lloyd, Chancellor of the Exchequer—was a model of obscurity, it may be stated that the government has already taken the rather staggering decision to shift Britain to a decimal currency. A committee headed by Lord Halsbury, a well-known administrator of major research projects, will develop the specific plan, decide on the currency units, estimate costs, and advise on timing, phasing, etc. Takeoff is expected in 1965. Further in the background is the proposal to shift Britain's traffic pattern from left to right.

**Paris.** The center on which de Gaulle is balanced becomes daily more isolated as the two flanks get more broadly defined. All Algerians of European origin, nearly all professional soldiers in Algeria and not a few Moslems adhere to the OAS (Secret Army Organization). In metropolitan France the OAS has considerable strength in the South and Southwest (where Salan has just made a secret inspection), and is beginning to be felt in the main centers. The counterswing of the Left inevitably takes the form of a united front, with the Communists controlling the political direction. In the army, the Left is now organizing the "Contingent" (temporary draftees) into a counter-conspiracy (DCC) to the OAS. In Paris, on Dec. 18, the Communist-led labor federation (CGT) got the Catholic and Socialist unions, student and other leftist organizations to stage a united front "demonstration against the OAS." But the Gaullist police, under M. Papon, intervened with heavy batons that cracked a hundred left skulls (at the cost of 40 police casualties). When de Gaulle reviewed the 3,000 elite officers at Strasbourg last month, there was an absolute coldness in their reception to the commander-in-chief. One entire section failed to present arms.

**Tokyo.** Two weeks ago the police arrested thirteen persons, most of whom had been wartime army officers. They are alleged to be members of a "secret organization of the Extreme Right," and are accused of plotting the assassination of the Prime Minister and various Cabinet members for "pro-Communist sympathies." Whether there is anything to this particular episode is not clear. However, it is a fact that sentiment for a harder, more dynamic external policy in relation to the fluid and disintegrating condition of many parts of Asia is growing in certain Japanese circles, and is beginning to take organized form.



Bernie, *Fraternite Francise*

"Send this message: 'Mr. U Thant, UN, New York—Please send us Swedish troops—much better than Gurkhas . . . Regards—'"

**Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.** Among the revolutionary anti-European organizations, one set, which might be called "modernist," aims for a "modern" nation and rapid industrial advance, and a second for a return to "ancestral Africa." Of this type the Kenyan Mau Mau is the most famous example. Rhodesia's National Democratic Party, outlawed by Sir Edgar Whitehead two weeks ago (and at once reconstituted as the Zimbabwe African People's Union), shared the Mau Mau perspective. The NDU program called for cumulative rejection of all things European. Everyone attending one of its meetings had to remove shoes and socks. Knives and forks, European foods, European shops, European churches, and all expressions of "mental colonialism" were slated for elimination. At the last mass meeting (of 12,000) before the ban, one speaker held a battle-axe aloft, and cried: "Draw inspiration from the battle-axe. The battle-axe belongs to our ancestral spirits." Another shouted: "Kenyatta—Kenyatta Nkrumah—Nkrumah Kaunda—Kaunda Banda—Violence does pay!—Violence does pay!"

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